

Appl. No. 09/839,817
Response to Office Action of Dec. 02, 2004

PATENT
Docket No.: US010197
Customer No. 000024737

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically generating a list of favorite media selections of a user of a media presentation device offering a plurality of media selections, comprising:

recording for each of a plurality of selections a total time that each of the plurality of selections have been selected on the media presentation device over a particular period of interest, wherein recording includes:

(i) for each occurrence of selecting one of the plurality of selections over the particular period of interest, at least (a) recording in a first table entries of a start time, an end time, a date, and a corresponding selection identification number, wherein a total time per occurrence corresponds to a difference between the end time and the start time, and (b) deleting from the first table entries that no longer occur within the particular period of interest, and

(ii) periodically responsive to one of more of a user activation of a favorite list key or a user selection of a favorite list feature of an on-screen menu, referencing the first table to perform at least one of generating and updating a second table, wherein the at least one of generating and updating the second table includes (a) using entries of the first table per selection to calculate a cumulative total time for each of the plurality of selections that have been selected over the particular period of interest and (b) recording each cumulative total time for corresponding selections as entries of the second table; and

further responsive to one or more of the user selection of the favorite list key or the user selection of the favorite list feature of the on-screen menu, sorting and

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generating from the entries of the second table a favorite selection list, wherein sorting and generating the favorite selection list including comprises sorting and generating up to N selections of the plurality of selections corresponding to those most frequently selected as determined from (a) the recorded cumulative total time that each of the plurality of selections has been selected over the particular period of interest and (b) only if the recorded cumulative total time of a corresponding selection during a sampling period within the period of interest exceeds a threshold, wherein the sampling period comprises a sampling period preset by a manufacturer of the media presentation device or set by an end user of the media presentation device, further wherein N is a predetermined number of selections to be included on the favorite selection list.

2 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold is on the order of greater than 10 hours over a one week sampling period within the particular period of interest.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically generating a list of favorite selections for a user of a media presentation device having a plurality of selections, the system comprising:

a time-keeping device for use in tracking a total time that each of a plurality of available media selections have been selected on the media presentation device over a particular period of interest, wherein tracking includes:

(i) for each occurrence of selecting one of the plurality of selections over the particular period of interest, (a) tracking in a first table entries of at least a start time, an end time, a date, and a corresponding selection identification number, wherein a total time per occurrence corresponds to a difference between the end time and the start time, and (b) deleting from the first table entries that no longer occur within the particular period

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of interest, and

(ii) periodically responsive to one or more of a user activation of a favorite list key or a user selection of a favorite list feature of an on-screen menu, referencing the first table to perform at least one of generating and updating a second table, wherein the at least one of generating and updating the second table includes (a) using entries of the first table per selection to calculate a cumulative total time for each of the plurality of selections that have been selected over the particular period of interest and (b) tracking each cumulative total time for corresponding selections as entries of the second table; and

a selection statistics manager coupled to the time-keeping device and also responsive to one or more of the user activation of the favorite list key or the user selection of the favorite list feature of the on-screen menu for generating from the entries of the second table a favorite selection list, wherein generating the favorite selection list including comprises sorting entries of the second table and generating up to N selections of the plurality of selections corresponding to those most frequently selected based on (a) the cumulative total time the media presentation device has selected each of the plurality of selections over the particular period of interest and (b) only if the tracked cumulative total time of a corresponding selection during a sampling period within the period of interest exceeds a threshold, wherein the sampling period comprises a sampling period preset by a manufacturer of the media presentation device or set by an end user of the media presentation device, further wherein N is a predetermined number of selections to be included on the favorite selection list.

14 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the threshold is on the order of greater than 10 hours over a one week sampling period within the particular period of interest.